

## Message Text

SECRET

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66-60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 261600Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO USNMR SHAPE BEL

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 3198

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOAIRSOUTH

USNATO 1614

S E C R E T ATHENS 2497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJ: VISITS TO GREECE BY US OFFICERS IN INTERNATIONAL  
NATO ASSIGNMENTS

REFS: A. USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM, ALO 74-048, DTS 18 APR 74

B. THESSALONIKI 0206

C. ATHENS 2407

D. ATHENS 2412

E. ATHENS 2429

PERSONAL FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER FROM AMB. TASCA

1. I FULLY CONCUR AND UNDERSTAND NEEDS SET FORTH YOUR  
MESSAGE IN ACCORDANCE MY RECENT DISCUSSION WITH JCS IN  
WASHINGTON.

2. CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING MY MESSAGE TO YOU WERE:

(A) IN CASE INVOLVING GENERAL WILSON EXTENSIVE AND PARTISAN  
PUBLICITY ON PHANTOMS COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE ALLIANCE

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BECAUSE GOG EXPLOITED DELIVERY OF F-4S IN CONNECTION

WITH AEGEAN DISPUTE AGAINST TURKEY A NATO ALLY, RATHER THAN TREATING IT AS DESIRABLE STRENGTHENING AND NECESSARY MODERNIZING OF GREEK AIR FORCE IN ITS NATO RESPONSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS WARSAW PACT STATES; (B) IN LIGHT OF PRESENT UNSTABLE GREEK POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH NATO AND US TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PURELY CEREMONIAL VISITS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS. IN OUR OWN INTEREST I BELIEVE WE MUST CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE FACT THAT GREEK MILITARY FORCES COMPRISE PART OF NATO'S MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS AND DO NOT PERSONIFY SPECIAL US-GREEK RELATIONSHIP. THUS, INCLUSION OF OTHER NATO NATIONALS IN CEREMONIES SUCH AS THAT OF PHANTOMS CAN HELP UNDERSCORE THIS POINT TO GREEK PEOPLE.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE OF MANNER IN WHICH YOUR RECENT WRITTEN INTERVIEW FOR NATO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY, GIVEN CHRISTOS LAMBROS (REFTEL D) AS WAS CASE IN 1973, WAS SELECTIVELY TREATED TO HIGHLIGHT POINTS SUPPORTING REGIME, ALTHOUGH SAME REMARKS, IF READ IN CONTEXT, PLACED GREECE IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF MUTUALITY OF NATO INTERESTS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. I AM AWARE THAT, THROUGH EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE WITH YOUR POLAD, INTERVIEW WHICH LAMBROS REQUESTED IN JAN WAS HELD UP TO AVOID POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION IN CONNECTION WITH GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY MAR 25. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE THAT IT WAS AVAILABLE TO REGIME AT PROPITIOUS MOMENT WHEN FIRST PHANTOMS DELIVERED TO GOG AND WHEN IT COULD ALSO BE EXPLOITED IN REGIME CELEBRATION OF APR 21, 1967 REVOLUTION. SEQUENCE OF PUBLIC EVENTS, TIMING OF WHICH WAS CLEARLY CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY DEvised, ILLUSTRATES SKILLFUL ORCHESTRATION WHICH PRESENT REGIME BELIEVES HELPFUL TO MAINTAIN ITS CREDIBILITY AND STATUS. I HOPE IN FUTURE YOU WOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SETTING DATE FOR GREEK RELEASE OF ANY SUCH INTERVIEW.

4. I APPRECIATE NATO REQUIREMENTS FOR FREQUENT VISITS BY US OFFICERS OCCUPYING NATO COMMAND POSTS AND AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE OUR OWN INTERESTS AND THOSE OF NATO BY RISKING AFFRONT TO PRESENT GREEK REGIME. AT SAME TIME IN LIGHT OF RECENT EXPERIENCE IT IS IMPORTANT

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TO CONTINUE TO REVIEW CAREFULLY TIMING OF VISITS AND TO TAKE STEPS TO MAINTAIN THEIR OPERATIONAL CHARACTER SO AS TO REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOG TO TREAT THEM FOR ITS OWN PARTISAN REASONS AS ENDORESEMENT OF PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREECE. IN MY VIEW, THE INTEGRITY OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO IS IN FACT RELEVANT TO THE MANNER IN WHICH NATO COMMANDERS EXERCISE THEIR FUNCTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION SEE AMB. RUMSFELD'S EXCELLENT CABLE USNATO 2175

(NOTAL).

5. I HOPE THAT NAO COMMANDERS CAN MAKE THEIR VISITS  
HERE WITH ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND; THAT US NATO  
OFFICERS MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICERS FROM OTHER  
COUNTRIES; THAT TIMING CAN BE CAREFULLY SELECTED; AND  
THAT NATO LIAISON OFFICER HERE (US MILITARY OFFICER) WILL  
BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS. IN THIS  
WAY I THINK UNDESIRABLE PUBLICITY PROBLEMS COULD BE  
MINIMIZED AND US AND NATO INTERESTS SUSTAINED.  
TASCA

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